

THE PRESS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

LADY FRANKLIN.

BY ELIZABETH H. WHITTELL.

Fold thy hands, thy work is over!
Cool thy watching eyes with tears,
Let thy poor heart, overburdened,
Rest a little from its fears.
Hope that saw with sleepless vision,
One and picture fading slow;
Fears that followed, vague and nameless,
Lifting back the veil of snow.
Or thy heart, for thy lost one,
Trusts that heart of woman, weep!
Owning still thy love that granted
Unto thy beloved sleep.
Not for him that hour of terror,
When the long loss-battle o'er,
In the endless day his comrades,
Deathward trod the Polar shore.
Shared the cruel cold and famine,
Spared the fainting heart's despair—
What but that could mercy grant him?
What but that has been thy prayer?
Dear to thee that last memorial,
From the cairn beside the sea,
Evermore the month of roses,
Shall be sacred time to thee.
Sad it is the morrowful yew-tree
O'er his slumber may not wave;
Sad it is the English daisy
May not blossom on his grave.
But his tomb shall storm and winter
Shake and fashion year by year—
Pile his memory on the mountain,
Block by block and tier on tier.
Guardian of his gleaming portal
Shall his stainless honor be,
While thy love, or of memorial,
Reveres o'er the winter sea!

Life upon the Railroad.

There is an old saying that the friendship of a dog is better than his ill-will, and for many years in my capacity as a Railroad Conductor I have found the above to be true to a letter—but mind, I am not saying that I have no enemies. I, undoubtedly, have a few, and I don't think there is a man that lives, but has more or less. A little kindness now and then, to the many needy ones, a conductor will find almost every trip over his road, will not be lost, and he will, in many cases, find from his "bread cast upon the waters," a return four-fold. Yet he must use a great deal of judgment in bestowing his charity upon even those he thinks entirely worthy of such bestowal. I will, in connection, relate a little incident by which a little kindness saved my life, and the lives of all the passengers on board my train.

The Western Division of our Road runs through a very mountainous part of Virginia, and the stations were few and far between. About three miles from one of these stations, the road runs through a deep gorge of the Blue Ridge, and near the center is a small valley, and there, hemmed in by the everlasting hills stood a small one-and-a-half story log cabin. The few acres that surrounded it were well cultivated as a garden, and upon the fruits thereof, lived a widow and her three children, by the name of Graff. They were, indeed, untutored in the double charities of an outside world—I doubt much if they ever saw the sun shine beyond their own native hills. In the summer time the children brought berries to the nearest station to sell, and with the money thus earned they bought a few of the necessities of the outside refinement.

The eldest of these children I should judge to be about twelve years, and the youngest about seven. They are all girls and looked nice and clean, and their healthful appearance and natural delicacy gave them a ready welcome. They appeared as if they had been brought up to fear God, and love their humble home and mother. I had often stopped my train and let them get off at their home, having found them at the station some three miles from home, after disposing of their berries.

I had children at home, and I knew their little feet would be tired in walking three miles, and therefore felt that it would be the same with those fatherless little ones. They seemed so pleased to ride, and thanked me with such hearty thanks, after letting them off near home! They frequently offered me nice, tempting baskets of fruit for my kindness, yet I never accepted any without paying their full value.

Now, if you remember, the winter of '54 was very cold in that part of the State and the snow was nearly three feet deep upon the mountains.

On the night of the twenty-sixth of December of that year, it turned around warm and the rain fell in torrents. A terrible storm swept the mountain tops, and almost filled the valleys with water. Upon that night my train was winding its way, at its usual speed, around the hills and through the valleys, and as the road bed was all solid rock, I had no fear of the banks giving out. The night was intensely dark, and the wind moaned piteously through the deep gorges of the mountains. Some of my passengers were trying to sleep, others were talking in a low voice, to relieve the monotony of the scene. Mothers had their little children upon their knees, as if to shield them from some unknown danger without.

It was near midnight, when a sharp whistle from the engine brought me to my feet. I knew there was danger by that whistle, and sprang to the brakes at once, but the brakemen were all at their posts, and soon brought the train to a stop. I seized my lantern and found my way forward as soon as possible, when what a sight met my gaze! A bright fire of pine logs illuminated the track for some distance, and not over forty rods ahead of our train a horrible fury had opened its maw to receive us!

The snow, together with the rain, had torn the whole side of the mountain out, and eternity itself seemed spread out before us. The widow Graff and her children had found it out, and had brought light brush from their home below and built a large fire to warn us of our danger. They had been there more than two hours watching beside that beacon of safety. As I went up where that old lady and children stood drenched through by the rain and sleet, she grasped me by the arm and cried—

"Thank God! Mr. Sherbourn, we stopped you in time. I would have lost my life before one hair of your head should have been hurt. Oh, I prayed to Heaven that we might stop the train, and my God, I thank Thee!"

The children were crying for joy. I confess, I don't very often pray, but I did then and there. I knelt down by the side of that good old woman and offered up thanks to an All Wise Being for our safe deliverance from a most terrible death and called down blessings without number upon that good old woman and her children. Near by stood the Engineer, Fireman and Brakemen, the tears streaming down their bronzed cheeks.

I immediately prevailed upon Mrs. Graff and the children to go back into the cars

of the storm and cold. After reaching the cars, I related our hair-bread escape, and to whom we were indebted for our lives, and begged the men passengers to go forward and see for themselves. They needed no further urging, and a great many of the ladies went also, regardless of the storm. They soon returned, and their pale faces gave full evidence of the frightful death we had escaped. The ladies and gentlemen vied with each other in their thanks and heartfelt gratitude toward Mrs. Graff and her children, and assured her that they would never, never forget her, and before the widow left the train she was presented with a purse of four hundred and sixty dollars, the voluntary offering of a whole train of grateful passengers. She refused the proffered gift for some time, and said she had only done her duty, and the reward she asked, being done so was all the reward she asked. However, she finally accepted the money, and said it should go to educate her children.

The railroad company built her a new house, gave her and her children a life pass over the railroad, and ordered all trains to stop and let her get off at home when she wished. But the employees needed no such orders; they can appreciate all such kindness—more so than Directors themselves.

The old lady frequently visits my home at home, and she is at all times a welcome visitor at my fireside. Two of the children are attending school at the same place.

So you see that a little kindness cost me nothing and saved my life. H—

A Tough Story.

The following story is told by that renowned wag, John Phoenix, of the California Pioneer. The reader will see that it records the verdict of a "Coroner's Inquest" and in other particulars bears a strong resemblance to some of the tough stories which have been circulated in this state and generally believed:

Dr. Tushmaker was never regularly bred as a physician or surgeon, but he possessed naturally a strong mechanical genius and a fine appetite, and finding his teeth of great service in gratifying the latter propensity, he concluded that he could do more good in the world and create more real happiness therein by putting the teeth of the inhabitants in good order than in any other way, so he became a dentist.

He was the man that first invented the method of placing small cog wheels in the back teeth, for the more perfect mastication of food, and he claimed to be the original discoverer of that method of filling cavities with a kind of putty—which becoming hard directly cause the tooth to ache so grievously that it has to be pulled, thereby giving the dentist two successive fees for the same job.

Tushmaker was one day seated in his office in the city of Boston, Mass., when a stout old fellow named Byles presented himself to have a back tooth drawn.

The dentist seated his patient in the chair of torture, and opening his mouth, discovered there an enormous tooth on the right hand side, about as large, as he afterwards expressed it, "as a small Polioyot Bible." "I shall have trouble with this tooth," thought Tushmaker, and he clapped on his heaviest forceps and pulled. It didn't come. Then he tried the turn-screw, exerting his utmost strength, but the tooth wouldn't come.

"Go away from here," said Tushmaker to Byles, "and return in a week, and I will draw that tooth out for you, or you will know the reason why."

Byles got up, clapped a handkerchief to his jaw, and put forth.

The dentist went to work, and in three days he invented an instrument which he was confident would pull any thing. It was a combination of the lever, pulley, wheel and axle, incline plane, wedge and screw. The castings were made, and the machine put up in the office, over an iron chair, rendered perfectly stationary by iron rods going down into the foundations of the granite building.

In a week old Byles returned; he was clamped into the iron chair, the forceps connected with the machine attached firmly to the tooth, and Tushmaker stationing himself in the rear took hold of a lever four feet long.

He turned it slightly—Old Byles gave a groan, and lifted his right leg. Another turn, another groan, the higher went Old Byles' right leg again.

"What do you raise your leg for?" asked the doctor.

"I can't help it," said the patient.

"Well," said Tushmaker "the tooth is bound to come now."

He turned the lever clear round, with a sudden jerk, and snapped Old Byles' head clean and clear from his shoulders, leaving a space of four inches between the several parts!

They had a post mortem examination—the roots of the tooth were found extending down two right side, through the right leg, and turned up in two prongs directly under the sole of the right foot.

"No wonder," said Tushmaker, "that he raised his leg."

The jury thought so too, but they found the roots much decayed, and five surgeons swearing that mortification would have ensued in a few months, Tushmaker was cleared on a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

He was a little shy of that instrument afterwards; but one day an old lady, feeble and dandified, came in to have a tooth drawn, and thinking it would come out very easy, Tushmaker concluded, just by way of variety, to try the machine.

He did so, and at the first turn drew the old lady's skeleton completely and entirely from her body, leaving her a mass of quivering jelly in the chair!

Tushmaker took her home in a pillow case. She lived seven years after that, and they called her the "India Rubber Woman." She had suffered terribly with the rheumatism, but after this occurrence never had any pain in her bones. The dentist kept them in a glass case.

After this machine was sold to the contractor of the Boston Custom House, and it was found that a child three years of age could by a single turn of the screw, raise a stone weighing twenty-five tons.

Smaller ones were made on the same principle, and sold the keepers of hotels and restaurants. They were advantageously used for bening turkeys.

There is no moral at all to this story, and it is possible that the circumstance may have become slightly exaggerated. Of course there can be no doubt of the truth of the main incidents.

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THE MOST RELIABLE FIRE AND
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We offer reward of \$250 for the discovery and DO-
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We are prepared to furnish a better Safe, and at less
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